

Sunday School Opening

2022.12.18

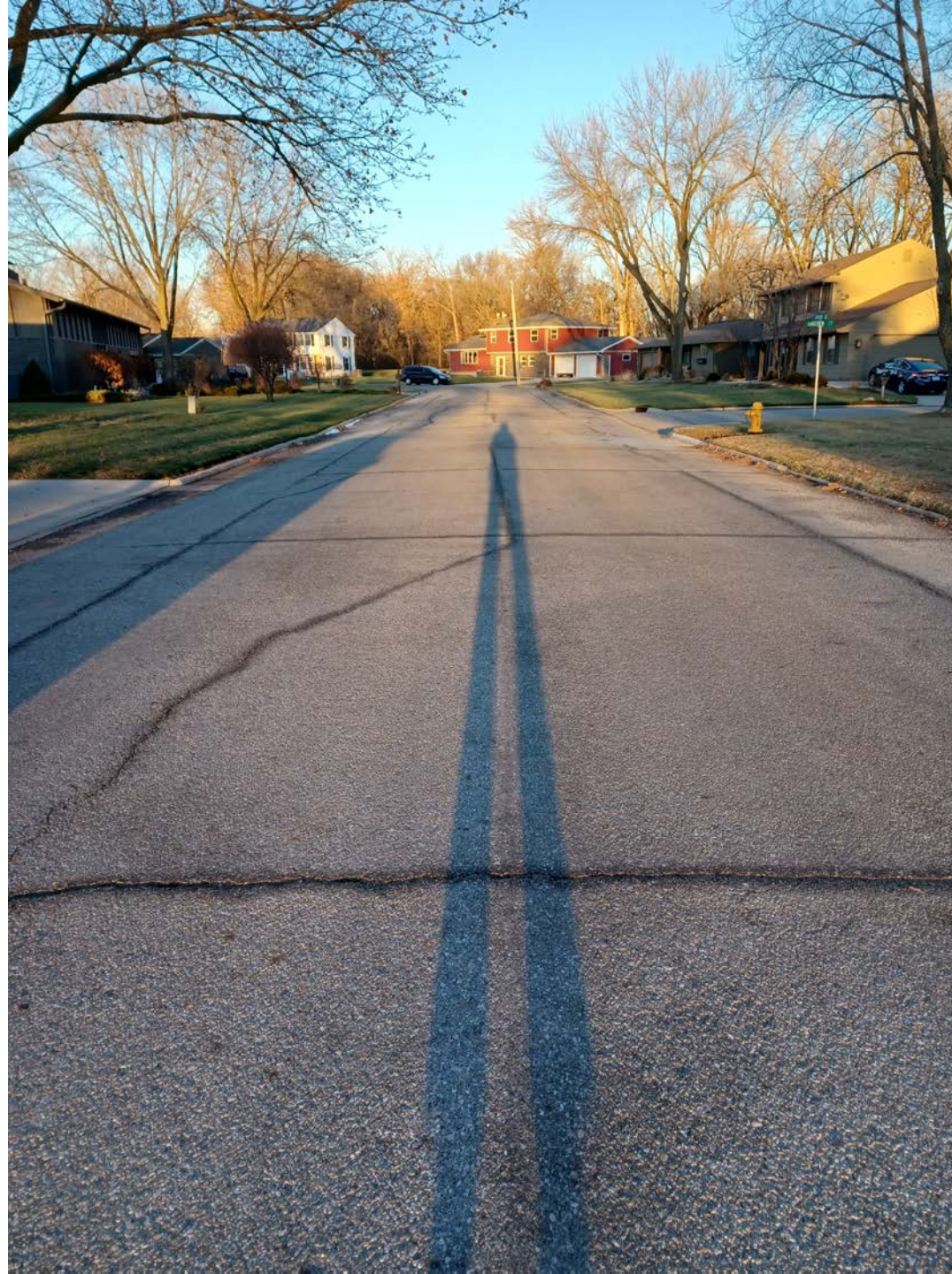
Jon Hardinger

Isaiah 61, Meditations on healing,
Meditations on Remembrance of the Lord

Making Melody

- # 208 “In My Heart There Rings”

11.26.2022
7:47 am



Today I am sharing the sunrise, as I do regularly, hoping it will wear off and bless you too. This one shows the effect of the sunrise on me and creates a shadow. I am soaking up the sun before the ground gets it. The main effect of the morning sun is for the melanocytes in the eye, which can take it in better toward the sunrise than away.

11.26.2022 4:10 pm



Now for the sunset picture,
and the sunrise and sunset
show a very long shadow.
Being at meeting will in
effect cast a shadow, on our
walk, as we are in the light of
the Lord.



- In our Sunday School Paper, Good News, we have the account of a boy's learning how, even though his father was a medical doctor, that the credit for healing goes to God. We agree with this lesson, as doctors can only work with what they are given, and we are very ready to give this credit to our Creator God. (1 Peter 4:19) He has not only begun the process of creation, but He also upholds it (Colossians 1:17) and gives natural ways to do this. (Proverbs 25:2) For example, the discovery of insulin and the polio vaccine, were the result of painstaking trial and error research. By God's grace, we live in an age where grandparents live to see their grandchildren. As you know there are philosophies that accept only natural phenomena, and by grace, they are allowed by God to use insightful and helpful biological measures, physics, math, for their tools. They miss out on the lessons taught to the boy whose dad was a medical doctor.

Master of Both the Natural and Supernatural

- As a Christian, I am living in a natural world, but also have the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ. Please read with me something quite supernatural. 2 Timothy 1:10 “but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.” NASB 1995
- The Lord is the Master of natural and the supernatural. I urge you, to give glory to God for both, and this understands the lesson the boy learned in our Good News paper today.

Picture moment, interlude to introduce meditations on Isaiah 61

My artistic comments: The artist, Barb Grabill, made this card and shared it through my Mom's Thursday Painters club. She chose to put a 1" brown fabric strip across the bottom, and off white, textured paper on which she laid the unknown plant. Its curved stem, several pale shaded leaflets lay on top of the paper. The artist accented it with sprouts of tender delicate evergreen needles growing out between each leaflet. The word PEACE is featured in the middle with a single evergreen branch. The visual impact to me was the evergreen, as if Christ has come into the scene bringing peace to us now.



Luke 4:16 The Lord Jesus comes to His hometown, Nazareth

- “And He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up; and as was His custom, He entered the synagogue on the Sabbath, and stood up to read.” Luke 4:16 NASB Please note this was not in Jerusalem.

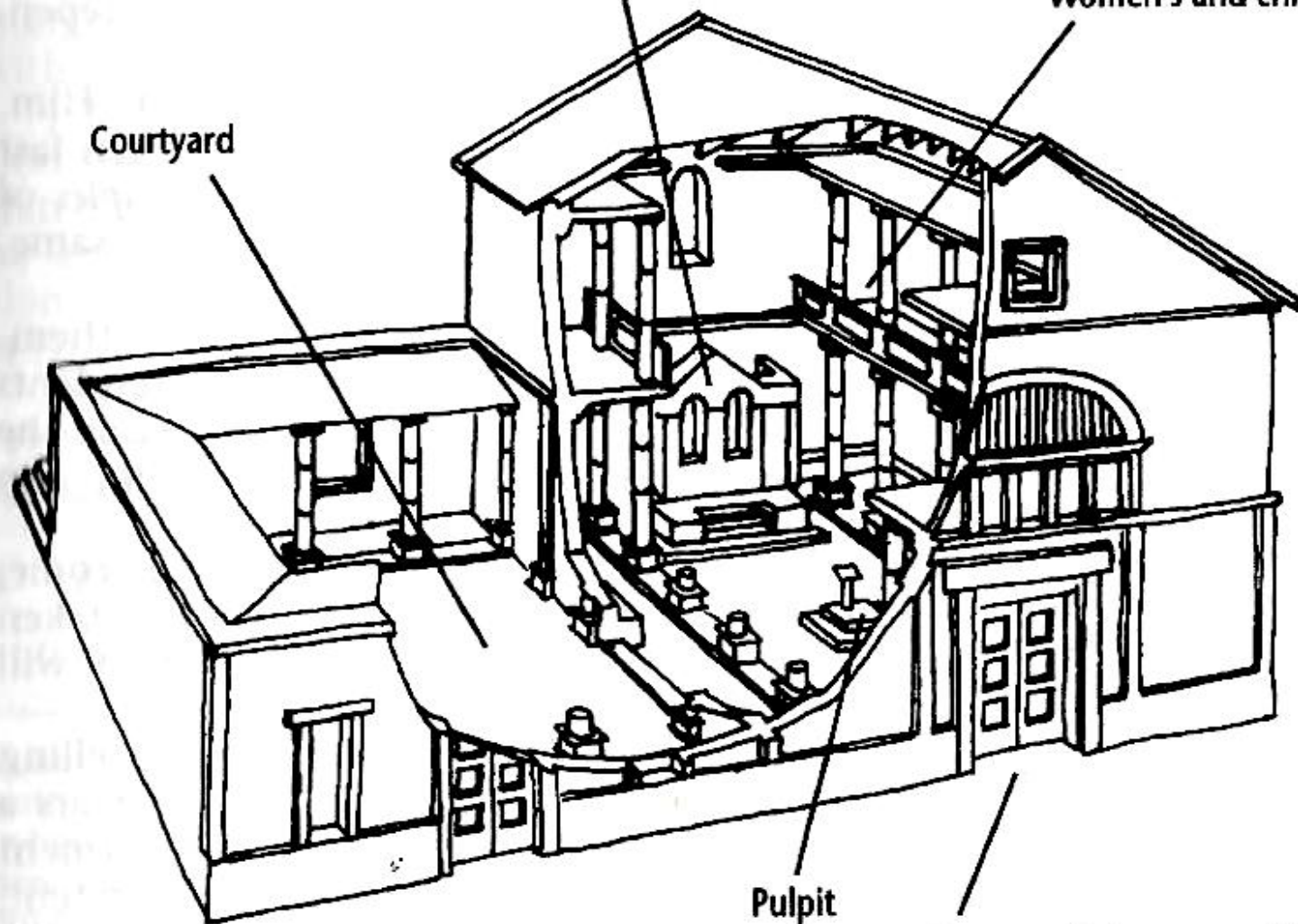


A SYNAGOGUE

Ark or tabernacle, containing the scrolls of Scripture

Women's and children's gallery

Courtyard



Pulpit

Entrance facing toward Jerusalem

Luke 4:17-21 NASB

- And the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. And He opened the book and found the place where it was written, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, And recovery of sight to the blind, To set free those who are oppressed, To proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Natural and Supernatural in the same verses

- Supernatural power of the Spirit
- Supernatural anointing
- Natural hearing, seeing the preaching of the gospel. (Picture that scene, being there.)
- Supernatural recovery of sight to the blind.
- Supernatural and natural freedom of captivity, the burdens of sin, and God's chosen people, Israel, suffered in captivity.

Luke 4:22 NASB

- And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, “Is this not Joseph’s son?”
- Natural ears hear, eyes see, astonishment, wonder and a question “is this not Joseph’s son?”
- We are privileged to hear it as they did by these Scriptures.

FC Jennings Gives a Review of Luke 4:18

2 proclamations

- FC Jennings pointed out that these verses contain 2 proclamations, and they are the bookends to the section the Lord spoke in the synagogue. The first was to preach the gospel and second to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.
- In between these proclamations are three forms of grace.

“Three forms of grace”

- The first was to the repentant poor whose heart is broken in sorrow yet forgiven. They receive much more than just being forgiven for they receive a position and standing that cannot be lost or reversed.
- The second is light for the blind, or unbelief. (2 Corinthians 4:4)
- This includes natural eyesight as Christ healed the blind seven times, according to Lord Is Near Calendar, December 16.
- The third was to be set free from the slavery of sin. (John 8:36) This again is positional, and we aspire, though weak, to live godly. (I include this in healing our minds from wandering.)

The Lord stops before saying the day of vengeance.

- Isaiah 61:2 goes on to say
- “And the day of vengeance of our God”
- I understand that vengeance awaits His second coming. But I offer this meditation, that the cross propitiated sin and the wrath of God is just in waiting until that day of grace is done. In other words, the cross was effective in delaying the day of wrath.

Healing because of what Jesus did on the cross

- Master of natural and supernatural.
- Proclaiming bookends, the gospel and the day of favor.
- Three graces, forgiveness, sight and freedom.

